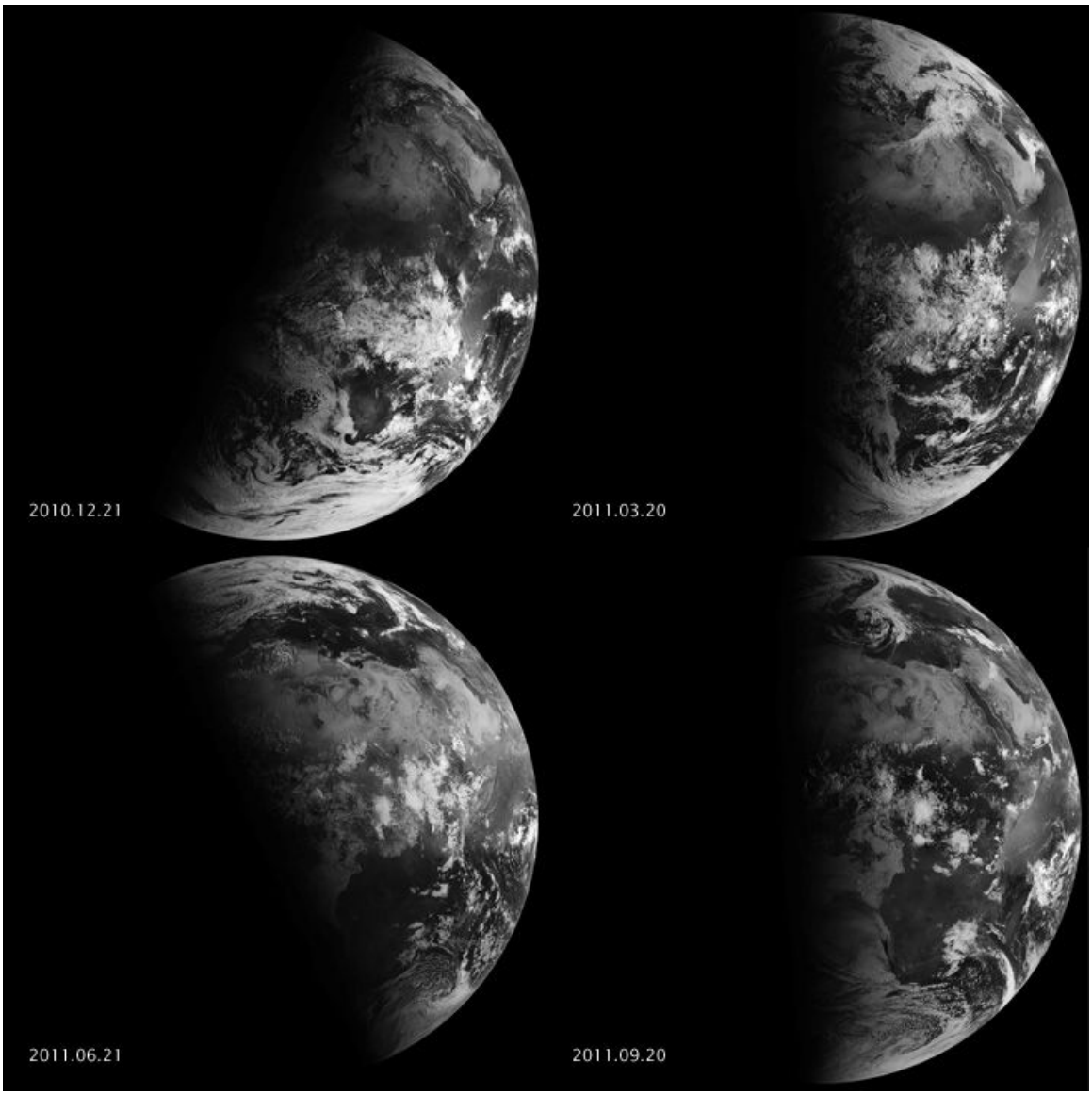
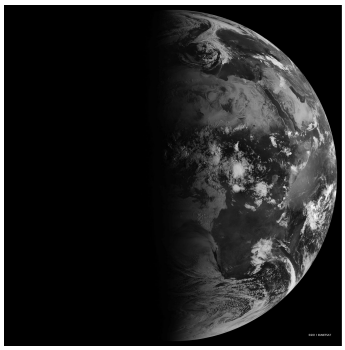
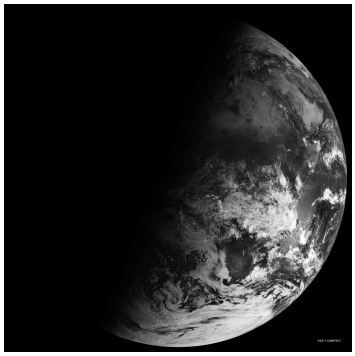
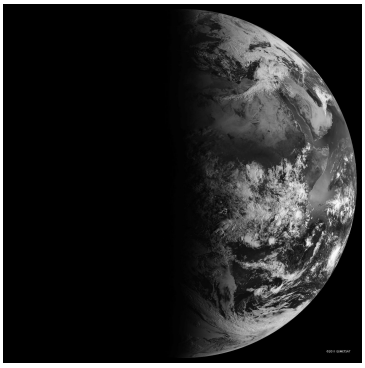
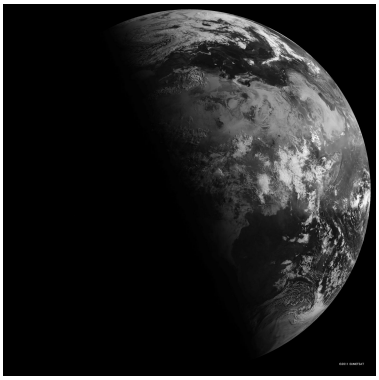
TEACHER RESOURCE
Seeing Equinoxes and Solstices from Space



Satellite Views of Earth
Teacher Sheet

	On the September equinox (9/22), the terminator is a north-south line, and the sun is said to sit directly above the equator. Day and night are each approximately 12 hours long in both hemispheres.
	On the December solstice (12/21), the sun sits above the Tropic of Capricorn, shining more light on the Southern Hemisphere and giving this hemisphere longest “day” of the calendar year. The Northern Hemisphere has the “shortest” day of the year.
	On the March equinox (3/20), the terminator is a north-south line once again. Day and night are each approximately 12 hours long in both hemispheres.
	On the June solstice (6/21), the sun sits above the Tropic of Cancer, casting more light on the Northern Hemisphere and giving this hemisphere longest “day” of the calendar year, and the shortest “day” in the Southern Hemisphere.